

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 13-09
CITY OF WILLMAR
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, by Chairman Ron Christianson at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Audrey Nelsen, Bruce DeBlieck, and Steve Ahmann. Also present were: Bruce Peterson, Planning and Development Services Director; Dave Wyffels, Police Chief; Jared Voge, Interim City Engineer; Joe Ridler, Storm Water Task Force; and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary.

1. STORM WATER REPORT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

The City Council requested an update on various studies and information the City has obtained over time relating to storm water issues. Jared Voge, Interim City Engineer of Bolton and Menk, was asked to review the documents and prepare a summary for the committee. The memo presented at the meeting summarized the City's drainage concerns and what projects have incrementally been completed to reduce flooding. Mr. Voge noted the areas the City is experiencing flooding issues at are the same areas where flooding occurred in the 1950's. The Watershed Management Plan completed by Barr Engineering analyzed the entire City storm sewer system and identified areas of inadequate storm sewer capacity.

It is evident the outlet elevation to the southeast does not provide for reducing the tailwater conditions created by the elevation of Lake Wakanda. A document prepared by Vern Carlson, PE, in February, 2013 addresses four potential improvement options. The first option consists of lowering Lake Wakanda which would increase capacity of County Ditch 23A. This would require 100% of the affected property owners to sign off before the DNR would consider this option. This would also result in the loss of wetland that would need to be justified and mitigated. The second option considers bypassing or re-aligning County Ditch 23A, but this option must adhere to Minnesota Statute 103.E and would take many years and significant analysis and permitting. Option three partially bypasses Grass Lake similar to the second option with the same Statute requirements. The fourth option consists of the utilization of Grass Lake as a detention basin with a pumping system to control the water elevation.

Mr. Voge analyzed all the completed reports and it was agreed that the tailwater condition is the driving force behind the underperformance of the City's storm sewer system. It does not allow runoff to be conveyed through the City system in an efficient manner and begins to pond in localized areas throughout the City. Given these considerations, Option Number 4 presented in Vern Carlson's memo should be further analyzed. This option seems to be the most viable.

Joe Ridler, Chairman of the Storm Water Task Force, addressed the committee. He stated the area northeast of Willmar is 90 feet higher than the City and contributes a great deal of water to the drainage system. He informed the members that an email has been sent to each member of the Council with several attachments for their review. The committee was informed that the required MS4 hearing would be held on June 17, 2013.

2. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICE BY ARNOLD'S OF WILLMAR (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

A request by Arnold's of Willmar to allow the extension of municipal water service to their property outside the City limits for the purpose of providing water for a fire sprinkler system was referred back to the committee for consideration. Current policy does not provide for the extension of municipal utilities beyond the City limits and the comprehensive plan urban growth boundaries adopted by the City does not include annexation in this area. Comments from the City Engineering staff and Willmar Municipal Utilities were received for consideration. The item was referred back to staff for further discussion with Arnold's of Willmar of possible annexation.

3. MINNWEST LIFT STATION/LAKELAND DRIVE SEWER UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

Bruce Peterson, Director of Planning and Development Services, updated the committee on the MinnWest Lift Station/Lakeland Drive Sewer Project. The project is currently designed to 30% by Bollig Inc. The estimated costs to complete the project in its entirety are exceeding the financing. Various alternatives are being explored to make sure the necessary infrastructure improvements are completed. The alternative of elimination of lift stations showed no savings. During the design process, there were indications that the piping may only be utilized at 30-35% capacity, which has led staff to proceed with having 9,000 LF of sanitary sewer televised to look at the condition of the pipe. If the piping is in good condition and of adequate size, this may postpone the reconstruction of the gravity sewer and Lakeland Drive. Design continues for the lift station and force main.

4. CONSIDER DANGEROUS WEAPONS ORDINANCE REVISION:

Police Chief Wyffels presented proposed changes to the current Dangerous Weapons Ordinance, Article III to include extending the time limit on the

permits from 60 to 180 days and adding arrows shot from a bow, cross-bow or similar device as a dangerous weapon. Lengthening the time to 180 days would allow a person to only have to obtain one permit for a growing season, saving both resident and staff time of processing two more permits. A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize staff to draft the ordinance changes to include the extension to 180 days and also the addition of arrows as dangerous weapons. Council Member DeBlieck voted against the ordinance change.

Chief Wyffels updated the committee on the number of calls and jail census and wanted to remind citizens not to blow lawn clippings into the street.

5. ORDER GARAGE REMOVAL AT 201 HAVANA STREET:

Subsequent to the City receiving a court order to remove the house at 201 Havana Street NE, the garage has fallen into a state of major disrepair and is the target of graffiti. Staff is proposing adoption of a resolution for order of garage repair or removal. Cost to the City would be the demolishing and removal of the garage should the property owner choose to ignore the directive. A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Nelsen and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

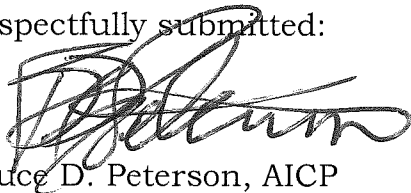
Authorize the resolution ordering the repair or removal of hazardous conditions at the garage at 201 Havana Street NE. (Resolution)

6. CONDITION OF RICE WADING POOL (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

The committee was informed of the deteriorating condition of the wading pool at Rice Park. The pool has been filled three times this year and the water has all leaked out. The walls are crumbling and various cracks are present. At staff's discretion, the pool will no longer be used. Review of the area for future land use will be conducted through park planning and capital improvements.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Peterson", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning & Development Services

Janell Sommers
Recording Secretary